

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 International application No.  
 PCT/AU03/01037

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b>		
Int. Cl. 7: C22B 3/06, 3/08, 3/10, 3/20, 3/44, 23/00		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) SEE ELECTRONIC DATABASE BELOW		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) DWPI; IPC 3/06, 3/08, 3/10, 3/20, 3/44, 23/00 and "Reduce" or "Ferrous" or "Nickel" or "Cobalt" or "Laterite"		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X, Y	US 6391089 B1 (CURLOOK) 21 May 2002. See especially Example 2.	1-23
Y	WO 97/08349 A1 (MICROSEP INTERNATIONAL) 6 March 1997. See especially Page 2, Line 10 - Page 3, Line 29	1-23
Y	CA 2408356 A1 (KRONOS TITAN) 6 November 2002 (& WO 01/86010 A1). See whole document.	1-23
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 12 September 2003		Date of mailing of the international search report 17 SEP 2003
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929		Authorized officer  Jonathan Lewis Telephone No : (02) 6283 2063

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5783057 (TOMITA) 21 July 1998. See especially the Claims.	1-23

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**  
Information on patent family members

International application No.  
**PCT/AU03/01037**

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member			
US	6391089	WO	02/50321	AU	23341/02
WO	97/08349	US	6143259	CA	2235214
CA	2408356	DE	10022867	WO	01/86010
US	5783057	DE	19710510	AU	14929/97
				EP	1280941
				CA	2199788
END OF ANNEX					